

# WEED EATER

® Trademark

ENGLISH

**?** Please do not return unit to retailer.  
Por favor, no devuelva el aparato al lugar de compra.  
Veuillez ne pas retourner l'outil au détaillant.  
**1-800-554-6723**  
[www.weedeater.com](http://www.weedeater.com)

## Operator's Manual Manual del Operador Manuel de L'utilisateur

PL 500

ESPAÑOL



### For Occasional Use Only



**WARNING:**

Read and follow all Safety Rules and Operating Instructions before using this product. Failure to do so can result in serious injury.

**ADVERTENCIA:**

Lea el manual del operador y siga todas las advertencias e instrucciones de seguridad. El no hacerlo puede resultar en lesiones graves.

**AVERTISSEMENT:**

Lire le manuel de l'utilisateur et bien respecter tous les avertissements et toutes les instructions de sécurité. Tout défaut de le faire pourrait entraîner des blessures graves.

Electrolux Home Products  
North America  
Div. of WCI Outdoor Products, Inc.  
Augusta, GA 30907

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FRANÇAIS

## SAFETY RULES

**WARNING:** When using gardening appliances, basic safety precautions should always be followed to reduce the risk of fire and serious injury. Read and follow all instructions.

*This power unit can be dangerous!* Operator is responsible for following unit and manual instructions and warnings. Read entire Operator's Manual before using unit! Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the unit. Restrict the use of this unit to persons who read, understand, and follow unit and manual instructions and warnings. Never allow children to operate this unit.



OPERATORS  
MANUAL



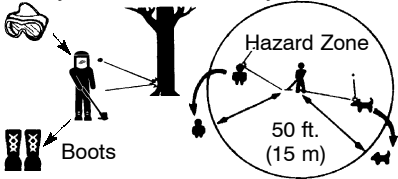
SAFETY INFORMATION  
ON THE UNIT

**DANGER:** Never use blades, wire, or flailing devices. This unit is designed for line trimmer use only. Use of any other accessories or attachments will increase the risk of injury.



**WARNING:** Trimmer line throws objects violently. You and others can be blinded/injured. Wear safety glasses and leg protection. Keep body parts clear of rotating line.

Safety Glasses or similar eye protection



Keep children, bystanders, and animals 50 feet (15 meters) away. If approached stop unit immediately.

If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgement. If you need assistance, contact your authorized service dealer or call 1-800-554-6723.

### OPERATOR SAFETY

- Dress properly. Always wear safety glasses or similar eye protection when operating, or performing maintenance, on your unit (safety glasses are available). Eye protection should meet the requirements of ANSI Z87.1.

- Always wear face or dust mask if operation is dusty.
- Always wear heavy, long pants, long sleeves, boots, and gloves. Wearing safety leg guards is recommended.
- Always wear foot protection. Do not go barefoot or wear sandals. Stay clear of spinning line.
- Secure hair above shoulder length. Secure or remove loose clothing or clothing with loosely hanging ties, straps, tassels, etc. They can be caught in moving parts.
- Being fully covered also helps protect you from debris and pieces of toxic plants thrown by spinning line.
- Stay Alert. Do not operate this unit when you are tired, ill, or under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication. Watch what you are doing; use common sense.
- Wear hearing protection.
- Never start or run inside a closed room or building. Breathing exhaust fumes can kill.
- Keep handles free of oil and fuel.

### UNIT / MAINTENANCE SAFETY

- Disconnect the spark plug before performing maintenance except carburetor adjustments.
- Look for and replace damaged or loose parts before each use. Look for and repair fuel leaks before use. Keep in good working condition.
- Replace trimmer head parts that are chipped, cracked, broken, or damaged in any other way before using the unit.
- Maintain unit according to recommended procedures. Keep cutting line at proper length.
- Use only 0.080" (2 mm) diameter Weed Eater® brand line. Never use wire, rope, string, etc.
- Install required shield properly before using the unit. Use only specified trimmer head; make sure it is properly installed and securely fastened.
- Make sure unit is assembled correctly as shown in this manual.
- Make carburetor adjustments with lower end supported to prevent line from contacting any object.
- Keep others away when making carburetor adjustments.
- Use only recommended Weed Eater® accessories and replacement parts.
- Have all maintenance and service not explained in this manual performed by an authorized service dealer.

### FUEL SAFETY

- Mix and pour fuel outdoors.
- Keep away from sparks or flames.
- Use a container approved for fuel.
- Do not smoke or allow smoking near fuel or the unit.
- Avoid spilling fuel or oil. Wipe up all fuel spills.
- Move at least 10 feet (3 meters) away from fueling site before starting engine.

- Stop engine and allow to cool before removing fuel cap.
- Always store gasoline in a container approved for flammable liquids.

## CUTTING SAFETY

**⚠ WARNING:** Inspect the area before each use. Remove objects (rocks, broken glass, nails, wire, etc.) which can be thrown by or become entangled in line. Hard objects can damage the trimmer head and be thrown causing serious injury.

- Use only for trimming, mowing, and sweeping. Do not use for edging, pruning, or hedge trimming.
- Keep firm footing and balance. Do not over-reach.
- Keep all parts of your body away from muffler and spinning line. Keep engine below waist level. A hot muffler can cause serious burns.
- Cutting on left side of the shield will throw debris away from the operator.
- Use only in daylight or good artificial light.

## TRANSPORTING AND STORAGE

- Allow the engine to cool; secure unit before storing or transporting in vehicle.
- Empty fuel tank before storing or transporting the unit. Use up fuel left in the carburetor by starting engine and letting it run until it stops.
- Store unit and fuel in an area where fuel vapors cannot reach sparks or open flames from water heaters, electric motors or switches, furnaces, etc.
- Store unit so line limiter blade cannot accidentally cause injury. Unit can be hung by the tube.
- Store the unit out of the reach of children. If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment. If you need assistance, call 1-800-554-6723.

**SAFETY NOTICE:** Exposure to vibrations through prolonged use of gasoline powered hand tools could cause blood vessel or nerve damage in the fingers, hands, and joints of people prone to circulation disorders or abnormal swellings. Prolonged use in cold weather has been linked to blood vessel damage in otherwise healthy people. If symptoms occur such as numbness, pain, loss of strength, change in skin color or texture, or loss of feeling in the fingers, hands, or joints, discontinue the use of this tool and seek medical attention. An anti-vibration system does not guarantee the avoidance of these problems. Users who operate power tools on a continual and regular basis must monitor closely their physical condition and the condition of this tool.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** This unit is equipped with a temperature limiting muffler and spark arresting screen which meets the require-

ments of California Codes 4442 and 4443. All U.S. forest land and the states of California, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington require by law that many internal combustion engines be equipped with a spark arresting screen. If you operate in a locale where such regulations exist, you are legally responsible for maintaining the operating condition of these parts. Failure to do so is a violation of the law. For normal homeowner use, the muffler and spark arresting screen will not require any service. After 50 hours of use, we recommend that your muffler be serviced or replaced by your Authorized Service Dealer.

## ASSEMBLY

**⚠ WARNING:** Make sure unit is properly assembled and all fasteners are secure.

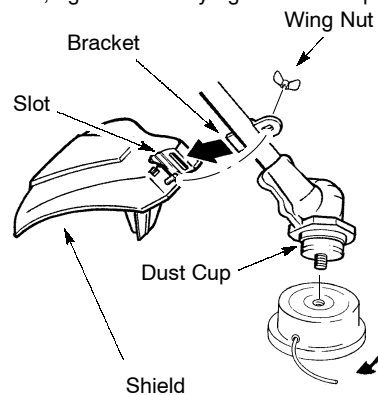
### ADJUST THE HANDLE

- Loosen wing nut or plastic knob on handle.
- Rotate handle to upright position and tighten in a comfortable position between the trigger and the safety label on the tube. Tighten handle securely.

### ATTACH THE SHIELD

**⚠ WARNING:** The shield must be properly installed. The shield provides partial protection from the risk of thrown objects to the operator and others and is equipped with a line limiter blade which cuts excess line. The line limiter blade (on underside of shield) is sharp and can cut you.

- Insert bracket into slot on shield.
- Pivot shield until bolt passes through hole in bracket.
- Securely tighten wing nut.
- Remove packing cover from the arbor shaft if so equipped. Thread trimmer head onto shaft; tighten securely against dust cup.



## FUEL YOUR UNIT

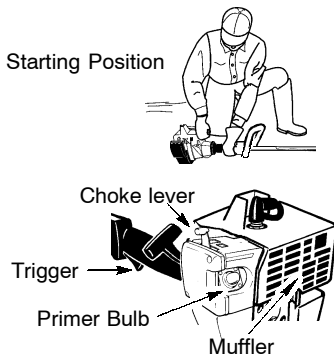
This engine is certified to operate on unleaded gasoline. Gasoline must be mixed with a good quality 2-cycle air-cooled engine oil designed to be mixed at a ratio of 40:1. Poulan/Weed Eater brand oil is recommended. (A 40:1 ratio is obtained by mixing 3.2 ounces of oil with 1 gallon of unleaded gasoline). When mixing fuel follow the instructions printed on the container. Always read and follow the safety rules under FUEL SAFETY.

## STARTING

### HOW TO STOP YOUR UNIT

To stop the engine, push and release the engine STOP switch. The switch will automatically return to the ON position. Wait 5 seconds before attempting to restart unit to allow switch to reset.

### HOW TO START YOUR UNIT



**WARNING:** The trimmer head will turn while starting the engine. Avoid any contact with the muffler. A hot muffler can cause serious burns.

### STARTING A COLD ENGINE (or a warm engine after running out of fuel)

- Set unit on a flat surface.
- Slowly press the primer bulb 6 times.
- Move choke lever to FULL CHOKE position.
- Squeeze the throttle trigger fully and hold through *all remaining steps*.
- Pull starter rope handle sharply 6 times.
- Move choke lever to HALF CHOKE position.
- Pull starter rope handle no more than 6 pulls, until engine runs.
- Allow engine to run 10 seconds, then move choke lever to OFF CHOKE position.

### STARTING A WARM ENGINE

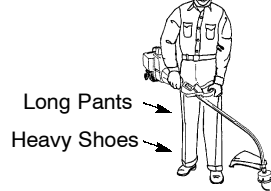
- Move choke lever to OFF CHOKE position.

- Pull starter rope handle until engine runs.
- If engine does not start in 5 pulls, follow instructions in STARTING A COLD ENGINE.

## USING YOUR UNIT

### OPERATING POSITION

ALWAYS WEAR: ← Eye Protector



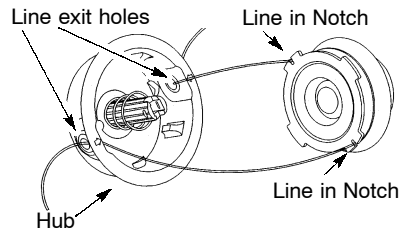
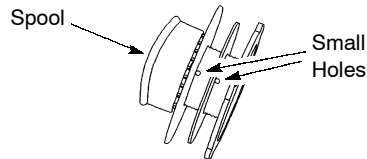
Cut from your right to your left.

### ADVANCING THE CUTTING LINE

Advance line by tapping the bottom of the cutting head lightly on the ground while engine is running at full speed. The metal line limiter blade attached to the shield will cut the line to the proper length.

### REPLACING THE LINE

- Remove spool by firmly pulling on tap button.
- Clean entire surface of hub and spool.
- Replace with a pre-wound spool, or cut two lengths of 12-1/2 feet of .080" (2 mm) diameter Weed Eater® brand line. Never use wire, rope, string, etc., which can break off and become a dangerous missile.
- Insert ends of the line about 1/2 inch (1 cm) into the small hole on the inside of spool.



- Wind the line evenly and tightly onto the spool. Wind in the direction of the arrows found on the spool.
- Push the lines into the notches, leaving 3 to 5 inches (7 - 12 cm) unwound.
- Insert the lines into the the exit holes in the hub as shown in the illustration.
- Align the notches with the line exit holes.
- Push spool into hub until it snaps into place.
- Pull the lines extending outside of the hub to release them from the notches.

## SERVICE

We recommend all service and adjustments not listed in this manual be performed by an Authorized Service Dealer.

### CARBURETOR ADJUSTMENTS

Your carburetor is equipped with limiter caps. Carburetor adjustment is a complicated task.

We recommend that you take your unit to an Authorized Service Dealer. Damage will occur if you turn the needles beyond the limiter stops.

### IGNITION TIMING

The ignition timing is fixed, non-adjustable.

### SPARK PLUG

Replace the spark plug yearly using a Champion RCJ-8Y plug. Spark plug gap is 0.025".

### TROUBLESHOOTING TABLE

**⚠ WARNING:** Always stop unit and disconnect spark plug before performing any of the recommended remedies below other than remedies that require operation of the unit.

TROUBLE	CAUSE	REMEDY
Engine will not start.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engine flooded.</li> <li>• Fuel tank empty.</li> <li>• Spark plug not firing.</li> <li>• Fuel not reaching carburetor.</li> <li>• Carburetor requires adjustment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See "Starting."</li> <li>• Fill tank with correct fuel mixture.</li> <li>• Install new spark plug.</li> <li>• Check for dirty fuel filter; replace.</li> <li>• Check for kinked or split fuel line; repair or replace.</li> <li>• See "Carburetor Adjustments."</li> </ul>
Engine will not idle properly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carburetor requires adjustment.</li> <li>• Throttle trigger screw too tight.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See "Carburetor Adjustments."</li> <li>• Loosen screw.</li> </ul>
Engine will not accelerate, lacks power, or dies under a load.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air filter dirty.</li> <li>• Spark plug fouled.</li> <li>• Carburetor requires adjustment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean or replace air filter.</li> <li>• Clean or replace spark plug; re-gap.</li> <li>• See "Carburetor Adjustments."</li> </ul>
Engine smokes excessively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel mixture incorrect.</li> <li>• Air filter dirty.</li> <li>• Carburetor requires adjustment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empty fuel tank and refill with correct fuel mixture.</li> <li>• Clean or replace air filter.</li> <li>• See "Carburetor Adjustments."</li> </ul>
Line does not advance or breaks while cutting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line improperly routed in head.</li> <li>• Line improperly wound on spool.</li> <li>• Line size incorrect.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check line routing.</li> <li>• Rewind line tightly and evenly.</li> <li>• Use only 0.080" (2 mm) dia. line.</li> </ul>
Line welds onto spool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line size incorrect.</li> <li>• Incorrect spool.</li> <li>• Line is being crowded against material being cut.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use only 0.080" (2 mm) dia. line.</li> <li>• Replace with correct spool.</li> <li>• Cut with tip of line fully extended.</li> </ul>
Line pulls back into head.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too little line outside of head.</li> <li>• Line size incorrect.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove spool and pull 4 inches (10 cm) of line outside of head.</li> <li>• Use only 0.080" (2 mm) dia. line.</li> </ul>

## NEED ASSISTANCE?

### Need Assistance?

Call 1-800-554-6723.

### Need Service Parts?

Contact your dealer or place of purchase.

## LIMITED WARRANTY

**ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA, Division of WCI Outdoor Products, Inc.**, warrants to the original purchaser that each new **Weed Eater** brand gasoline tool or attachment is free from defects in material and workmanship and agrees to repair or replace under this warranty any defective gasoline product or attachment as follows from the original date of purchase.

**2 YEARS-** Parts and Labor, when used for household purposes.

**90 DAYS -** Parts and Labor, when used for commercial, professional, or income producing purposes.

**30 DAYS -** Parts and Labor, if used for rental purposes.

This warranty is not transferable and does not cover damage or liability caused by improper handling, improper maintenance, or the use of accessories and/or attachments not specifically recommended by **ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA** for this tool. Additionally, this warranty does not cover tune-ups, spark plugs, filters, cutting line, or rotating head parts that will wear and require replacement with reasonable use during the warranty period. This warranty does not cover pre-delivery setup or normal adjustments explained in the operator's manual.

**THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.**

**NO CLAIMS FOR CONSEQUENTIAL OR OTHER DAMAGES WILL BE ALLOWED, AND THERE ARE NO OTHER EXPRESS WARRANTIES EXCEPT THOSE EXPRESSLY STIPULATED HEREIN.**

**SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS OR THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATIONS OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.**

**ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA'S** policy is to continuously improve its products. Therefore, **ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS** reserves the right to change, modify, or discontinue models, designs, specifications, and accessories of all products at any time without notice or obligation to any purchaser.

## U.S. EPA EMISSION CONTROL WARRANTY STATEMENT

**YOUR WARRANTY RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS:** The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and **POULAN/WEED EATER, DIVISION OF WCI OUTDOOR PRODUCTS** are pleased to explain the emissions control system warranty on your lawn and garden equipment engine. All new utility and lawn and garden equipment engines must be designed, built, and equipped to meet the stringent anti-smog standards. **POULAN/WEED EATER** must warrant the emission control system on your lawn and garden equipment engine for the periods of time listed below provided there has been no abuse, neglect, or improper maintenance of your lawn and garden equipment engine. Your emission control system includes parts such as the carburetor and the ignition system. Where a warrantable condition exists, **POULAN/WEED EATER** will repair your lawn and garden equipment engine at no cost to you. Expenses covered under warranty include diagnosis, parts and labor. **MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY COVERAGE:** If any emissions related part on your engine (as listed under Emissions Control Warranty Parts List) is defective or a defect in the materials or workmanship of the engine causes the failure of such an emission related part, the part will be repaired or replaced by **POULAN/WEED EATER**. **OWNER'S WARRANTY RESPONSIBILITIES:** As the lawn and garden equipment engine owner, you are responsible for the performance of the required maintenance listed in your Owner's Manual. **POULAN/WEED EATER** recommends that you retain all receipts covering maintenance on your lawn and garden equipment engine, but **POULAN/WEED EATER** cannot deny warranty solely for the lack of receipts or for your failure to ensure the performance of all scheduled maintenance. As the lawn and garden equipment engine owner, you should be aware that **POULAN/WEED EATER** may deny you warranty coverage if your lawn and garden equipment engine or a part of it has failed due to abuse, neglect, improper maintenance, unapproved modifications, or the use of parts not made or approved by the original equipment manufacturer. You are responsible for presenting your lawn and garden equipment engine to a **POULAN/WEED EATER** authorized repair center as soon as a problem exists. Warranty repairs should be completed in a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 30 days. If you have any questions regarding your warranty rights and responsibilities, you should contact your nearest authorized service center or call **POULAN/WEED EATER** at **1-800-554-6723**. **WARRANTY COMMENCEMENT DATE:** The warranty period

begins on the date the lawn and garden equipment engine is purchased. **LENGTH OF COVERAGE:** This warranty shall be for a period of two years from the initial date of purchase. **WHAT IS COVERED: REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF PARTS.** Repair or replacement of any warranted part will be performed at no charge to the owner at an approved [POULAN/WEED EATER](#) servicing center. If you have any questions regarding your warranty rights and responsibilities, you should contact your nearest authorized service center or call [POULAN/WEED EATER](#) at [1-800-554-6723](tel:1-800-554-6723) **WARRANTY PERIOD:** Any warranted part which is not scheduled for replacement as required maintenance, or which is scheduled only for regular inspection to the effect of "repair or replace as necessary" shall be warranted for 2 years. Any warranted part which is scheduled for replacement as required maintenance shall be warranted for the period of time up to the first scheduled replacement point for that part. **DIAGNOSIS:** The owner shall not be charged for diagnostic labor which leads to the determination that a warranted part is defective if the diagnostic work is performed at an approved [POULAN/WEED EATER](#) servicing center. **CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES:** [POULAN/WEED EATER](#) may be liable for damages to other engine components caused by the failure of a war-

ranted part still under warranty. **WHAT IS NOT COVERED:** All failures caused by abuse, neglect, or improper maintenance are not covered. **ADD-ON OR MODIFIED PARTS:** The use of add-on or modified parts can be grounds for disallowing a warranty claim. [POULAN/WEED EATER](#) is not liable to cover failures of warranted parts caused by the use of add-on or modified parts. **HOW TO FILE A CLAIM:** If you have any questions regarding your warranty rights and responsibilities, you should contact your nearest authorized service center or call [POULAN/WEED EATER](#) at [1-800-554-6723](tel:1-800-554-6723). **WHERE TO GET WARRANTY SERVICE:** Warranty services or repairs shall be provided at all [POULAN/WEED EATER](#) service centers. call: [1-800-554-6723](tel:1-800-554-6723) **MAINTENANCE, REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR OF EMISSION RELATED PARTS:** Any [POULAN/WEED EATER](#) approved replacement part used in the performance of any warranty maintenance or repair on emission related parts will be provided without charge to the owner if the part is under warranty. **EMISION CONTROL WARRANTY PARTS LIST:** Carburetor, Ignition System: Spark Plug (covered up to maintenance schedule), Ignition Module. **MAINTENANCE STATEMENT:** The owner is responsible for the performance of all required maintenance as defined in the owner's manual.